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Schools and Scholars in Massachusetts, United States, 1837.

THE following summary of the annual returns of schools in the State of Massachusetts has been drawn up during the year 1837, and submitted to the Board of Education in that commonwealth by their Secretary.

The State contains 305 towns, and returns were received from 294—a greater number than was ever received in any preceding year; and the returns bear evidence, also, of having been made with far greater accuracy than heretofore. In the money statements, the American dollar has been converted into sterling, at the exchange of 50 pence per dollar.

Number of towns which have made returns		294
Population (May 1st, 1837)		691,222
Valuation (1830)		£43,012,013 17 5
Number of public schools		2,918
Number of scholars of all ages in all the schools	in winter	141,837
	in summer	122,889
Average attendance in the schools	in winter	111,520
	in summer	94,956
Number of persons between 4 and 16 years of age		177,053
Average length of the school-terms in months and days		6 25
Number of teachers, including summer and winter terms	males	2,370
	females	3,591
Average wages paid per month, including board	males	£5 6 0
	females	2 7 5
Amount of money raised by taxes for support of schools		£96,922 10 2
Amount raised by taxes for teachers' wages, including board, if paid from the public money		80,650 17 4½
Amount raised voluntarily, to prolong common schools, including fuel and board, if contributed		10,062 14 9½
Number of academies or private schools*		854
Aggregate of months kept		5,619
Average length of the school-terms in months and days		6 17
Aggregate of scholars		27,266
Aggregate paid for tuition		£68,338 18 1½
Amount of local funds		39,486 14 4
Income from same		1,994 2 5½

From the above returns it appears that rather more than one quarter of the total population (25·6) are between the ages of 4 and 16; that the proportion of scholars in the public schools to the children between those ages is 80 per cent. in winter, and 69 per cent. in summer, or 75 per cent on an average of the two seasons; that the average attendance of the scholars on the mean of the two seasons is 77 per cent.; that the average number of scholars in each public school during the winter, when the scholars are most numerous, is 48; that there are, on an average, 2 teachers to each public school, and that the average number of scholars to each teacher is 24. Neither the sexes nor ages of the scholars are distinguished, but the proportion of female to male teachers is very nearly as 3 to 2.

The total sum raised by taxes for the support of the public schools amounts to 177,573*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, which, divided by the total population, gives a proportion of 5*s.* 1*d.* to each individual; and, if divided by the number of scholars at the fullest season, gives an average of 1*l.* 5*s.* as the cost of each scholar out of the public taxes. If to this be added

* A very great portion of the number included under the head of private schools and academies represent small schools, kept in the interim between the winter and summer terms of the district schools.

10,062*l.*, the amount of voluntary contributions, and 1994*l.*, the income derived from local funds, which, it seems probable, although the returns are not quite clear upon this point, is applied to the support of the public schools, the total cost of the public schools will be 189,629*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; the average contribution by each individual of the population, 5*s.* 5*d.*; and the total cost of each scholar, 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

As a large portion of the private schools and academies are stated to be temporary schools, kept during the vacations of the public schools, it is consequently impossible to distinguish the private scholars from those already enumerated among the public scholars. The average number of pupils however, in each private school, is 32, and the average cost of each pupil, 2*l.* 10*s.* 1*d.*

The total sum applied annually to purposes of education in Massachusetts is 257,969*l.*; and the total cost of each scholar exactly 1*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*

CRIMINAL RETURNS.

Forms for Registering the principal Circumstances connected with the Birth, Parentage, Education, and Condition of Criminal Offenders; the nature and probable Causes of their Offences, with the result of their Trial. Prepared by a Committee of the Statistical Society of London.

THE object of the Statistical Society, in propounding the accompanying Form of Criminal Registers, is to enable magistrates, clerks of assize, and gaolers, to obtain further particulars of offenders than have hitherto been collected.

The form is intended for the registration of individual cases brought before magistrates or courts.

The first column is for the "Number of the Offence," as entered in the book in the consecutive order of the charges made.

The second column, "Date of Charge before Magistrates," explains itself.

The third column, "Number of Offender," is to indicate the number of offenders in consecutive series, as distinguished from the number of offences.

The columns headed "Name," "Sex," "Age," require no explanation.

The column headed "Occupation" is subdivided into professed and actual, in order to exhibit the real as well as the professed or assumed occupation of an offender.

The column headed "Residence" is to be filled up with the name of the place which the magistrate, or other person making the return, considered to be the offender's last usual or ordinary place of abode.

The three following columns, headed "Domicile," are inserted in order to ascertain what proportion of offences are committed by natives, inhabitants, or strangers.

The columns headed "Parentage" are chiefly applicable to juvenile offenders.

Those headed "Education," "Domestic Condition," "Previous Character," are so minute as to require no further explanation.

The column headed "Previously Convicted" could only be filled up